

Steve Sisolak  
Governor

Richard  
Whitley, MS  
Director



DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



Ross  
Armstrong  
Administrator

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**NEVADA COALITION TO PREVENT THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF  
CHILDREN: EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE  
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** June 10, 2021, 10:00 am

**LOCATION:** Division of Child and Family Services; 4126 Technology Way, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Carson City, NV 89706

**TELECONFERENCE ACCESS:** Join the meeting: [Click here to join the meeting](#)  
Call in number: [+1 775-321-6111](#) Phone Conference ID: 815 784 921#

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 10:03am by Melissa Holland

**Members Present:** Jessica Halling, Melissa Holland, Eileen Hough, Nicole Reilly, Brigid Duffy, Brennan Paterson, Pauline Salla, Det. Wes Leedy, Heather Hughes, Lauren Boitel, Ryan Gustafson, Brittany Hopballe, Stacy Scott

**Guests:** Beverly Brown

**Members Absent:** Brenda Sanquist, Holly Gibbs, Michael Bartel

**DCFS Staff Members Present:** Hayley Jarolimek, Esther Rodriguez-Brown

Roll call was taken, a quorum was present.

Esther Rodriguez- Brown reminded the members to not use the chat function and to state their names before speaking.

**2. Public Comment**

Eileen Hough stated that the Department of Health and Human Services Director Richard Whitley put out a call to action to all state agency staff to start using equity lenses. In reviewing past CSEC documents, Eileen stated that she felt it was prudent to ensure that non-stigmatizing and non-biased language are used. She requests that the inclusive language documents provided to Esther Rodriguez-Brown be shared with the subcommittee for review and approval before taking to the full Coalition in September for review and approval as well.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown added the inclusive language documents to all the subcommittee Google Docs. and they will also be sent out to all the members by Lorena Bojorquez.

No further discussion on this item.

### 3. For Possible Action: Approval of the May 10, 2021 minutes.

Eileen Hough stated that her comments on the Department of Education during the last meeting were incorrect. She would like guidance on what can be done to correct that as she plans to provide accurate information today.

Jennifer Spencer stated that the minutes from May 10<sup>th</sup> will remain as is if they accurately reflect what was said and any corrections can be made today.

**Motion:** Nicole Reilly motioned to approve the May 10<sup>th</sup> minutes; motion was seconded by Brennan Paterson. No objections, no abstentions, motion carried unanimously.

No further discussion on this item.

### 4. For Possible Action: Screening Tool Presentations

Beverly Brown presented a PowerPoint on the Nevada Rapid Indicator Tool (NRIT). She stated that the NRIT is recommended as the standardized screening tool to identify CSEC children or those at high-risk. She added that the NRIT is to be used by a trained service provider and that it does not rely on self-disclosure, it includes indicators that could prompt confirmation followed by initiation of an MDT.

Beverly read the areas for consideration when implementing the NRIT:

- Criteria for determining which children an NRIT should be completed on and how often.
  - Consider age, events or warning signs that would trigger NRIT
- Staff requirements related to administrative- administering the tool.
  - What training will be provided, who is responsible to complete the tool, timeframe.
- Response to youth identified as High Risk
  - How to safety plan to address risk factors, have timeframe for re-administering, how and when additional screening and assessment will occur, services to link the youth to.
- Response to youth identified as a confirmed victim
  - How to safety plan to address risk factors, when will MDT be initiated, will CSEC-mentor advocate be assigned, referral for comprehensive assessment, services to link youth to.
- Data-tracking and reporting requirements related to NRIT
  - Where will hard copies be stored if not in electronic form, policies for confidentiality of data, what data is entered into agency's information management system, what data is shared with partner agencies and Nevada SAC.

Beverly then read the scenarios in which, per CSEC Policy, an NRIT would be administered:

- During the initial assessment phase of an investigation for every child that is 10 and older.
- When a child has returned from a run-away episode.
- Anytime in the life of the case where there are concerns that child, regardless of age, may be a CSEC victim or is at risk of being a CSEC victim.

Lastly, Beverly read the highlights from policy for NRIT:

- Case carrying child welfare staff must take CSEC training annually.

- Response when child is confirmed CSEC victim:
  - Make report to law enforcement
  - Initiate coordinated response MDT (6 hours if urgent, 72 hours if non-urgent, at scheduled intervals and when circumstances change)
- Policy includes information from CSEC Protocol, such as:
  - Assessing CSEC safety
  - Planning for CSEC safety
  - Preventing and responding to peer recruitment
  - Placement considerations
  - Preventing runaways
  - Assessing ongoing concerns and underlying issues
  - Identifying strengths and resources
  - Individualized service planning

Beverly added that they're also currently working on updating the information management system to be able to enter NRIT and other data points. NRIT's are currently completed in paper form and saved electronically.

Hayley Jarolimek stated that the NRIT was developed as a result of the work done by the last coalition and it was designed specifically for child welfare. It would be ideal if juvenile justice in the counties and youth parole use the NRIT to provide a unified measurement.

Pauline Salla asked if other agencies use the NRIT.

Heather Hughes stated that Washoe County Human Services agency uses it at Juvenile Justice in detention screenings.

Pauline Salla stated that she will present the NRIT to NAJJA (Nevada Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators) to add as an agenda item for their next meeting; she also extended an invite to subcommittee members to attend. She added that she is also part of the oversight commission and will add to their subcommittee agenda as well.

Melissa Holland asked if the NRIT is only used on minors.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown stated that it is intended for minors however others could have more information.

Jessica Halling asked if data can be shared with law enforcement for funding if the NRIT is implemented statewide.

Brigid Duffy stated she is unsure if Clark DJJS and The Harbors use the NRIT. As for the data piece, she will check with Eboni Washington at Clark County on how a report can be pulled out of Tyler Supervision for the use of it as an assessment.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown reminded the members that the Funding, Data and Sustainability Subcommittee is working toward establishing a central database that could house statewide CSEC data.

Stacy Scott stated that the NRIT is used in the ARYS unit at Clark County. They're currently working on including the NRIT in UNITY for minors 10 and older; it will be a requirement before any case closure. Hard copies are currently scanned into UNITY but the data points aren't easily accessed.

Beverly Brown stated that the NRIT will be tied to each specific child, reports should include all required data points including demographics. Currently they are in the final stages of the workgroup, which includes waiting to meet with UNITY for development after finalization.

Eileen Hough asked if the NRIT is billable via Medicaid as it may potentially be an incentive for agencies to use it. If it is not billable, it would be beneficial to determine whom in the Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy would be the person to contact to see if the NRIT can be billed.

Jessica Halling stated she has never heard of the NRIT being billable to Medicaid.

Melissa Holland asked if victim advocates with law enforcement agencies use the NRIT.

Hayley Jarolimek stated that there may be restrictions with NRIT billing due to the individuals administering it seeing that it is not a clinical tool.

Eileen Hough volunteered to compile some background information on requirements for billing via Medicaid.

No further discussion on NRIT presentation.

Heather Hughes stated she met with Dr. Amy Guevara from DCFS; she is the statewide implementation lead and a certified CANS trainer. The CANS is used throughout all DCFS programs and with Washoe specialized foster care youth. The CANS is administered at intake and every 90 days, it is tracked through Avatar software. Heather shared that the goal for statewide use is to have one CANS completed that can be accessed throughout so that different types of providers aren't duplicating the efforts. The CANS requires training/certification, which is currently only available online and although the cost is minimal, Dr. Guevara has vouchers available to those interested in training free of charge. Heather proceeded to present the different completion areas of the CANS form as it was displayed for those in attendance.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown asked if only trained therapists use the CANS and if the training includes trauma bonding/trauma informed aspects. She added that if this is used in a multidisciplinary team environment, they need to tread with caution so as to not re-traumatize.

Heather Hughes stated that the CANS is not only used by trained therapists which is why it would be ideal to have it completed as a team during an MDT.

Jessica Halling stated that the CANS is mandatory in specialized foster care, it is very time consuming and cannot be billed because CSAII, which is also required, is billed. CANS is also done every 90 days and can take hours to complete. She added that she will follow up with the St. Jude's Ranch for Children clinical team to confirm billing details. Currently, completed CANS forms are scanned to DCFS however there is no knowledge as to how or if the data is stored once received. She added that they're working with their internal data collection system to transition into a system where CANS is built-in, and data can be pulled.

Hayley Jarolimek stated that Systems of Care unit under DCFS is responsible for CANS under Children's Mental Health therefore she will follow up to see what the barriers are on implementation and billing.

No further discussion on CANS presentation.

Holly Gibbs was not in attendance therefore the PEARR tool presentation is tabled until the next meeting.

**Motion:** Jessica Halling motioned to have the PEARR tool presented at the next meeting if Holly Gibbs is available, Nicole Reilly seconded motion. No objections, no abstentions, motion carried unanimously.

Eileen Hough stated that the Department of Education expressed they are not currently in a place to recommend a screening tool; each school chooses what works best for them. As a screening tool, the CASII is not diagnostic, however Eileen endorses it as it leads to treatment planning.

Jessica Halling stated she relies on CANS more than CASII and CUMHA, she will follow up with the St. Jude's Ranch for Children clinical director, to see how she uses CASII.

Heather Hughes stated that she uses CASII for all youth in specialized foster care and all children coming into foster care. It is used to determine levels of care as there are three levels; Family Foster, Enhanced Homes and Specialized Foster Care. She added that the CASII provides a cumulative score and the CANS does not.

Ryan Gustafson stated that the CASII has been broadly used, probably beyond its intent. It is required by Medicaid for levels of care reimbursement. He added that Washoe previously attempted to crosswalk both the CANS and the CASII and that Dr. Megan Freeman from DCFS would have more information on the outcome.

Eileen Hough asked if there is any follow-up needed on the CASII or if the discussed tools can be brought to the June 15<sup>th</sup> coalition meeting for voting.

Jessica Halling suggested waiting for the PEARR presentation so that all the tools can be compared. She added that the NRIT seems to be a quick easy to use tool whereas the CANS and CASII are more in-depth which should probably be completed by a mental health professional. CANS or CASII could follow up after an NRIT is done first. The NRIT seems to be a good initial identifier and would be a good addition to the school district.

Hayley Jarolimek suggested discussion and action based on the decision even if it is decided that more time is needed and an update can be provided at the coalition meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Jessica Halling suggested finalizing the decision at the next meeting as there is still another tool presentation pending.

Eileen Hough asked if the NRIT can be brought to the coalition as there seems to be consensus on its benefits as an initial identifier.

Nicole Reilly stated that because Objective 2b is about establishing an assessment tool for all community organizations that serve CSCE and it has been found that different tools meet different needs regarding clinical vs. non-clinical, it might be best to identify one for each area.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown stated that the assessment tool matrix in the Google Doc. for this subcommittee includes nationwide tools that are community based and can be used to narrow down the choices. She added that she could aid in reviewing the tools and present her choice for each.

Jessica Halling stated that the NRIT is good for community use across the broad because it serves the need to identify quickly. The next level of tools will need to be chosen with careful consideration based on the child or youth's needs but as a starting point, she suggests pushing the NRIT forward.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown reminded the members that the coalition meets quarterly therefore if the NRIT is a solid choice for a first step in assessment, it would be worth updating the coalition with. It could be

implemented as an identifying tool instead of actual assessment. This could lead to implementing it and between now and September, the group could work on the assessment piece.

Pauline Salla asked for clarification on the NRIT being brought to the coalition, asking if bringing it to the coalition would restrict the other tools used in other organizations.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown stated that bringing the NRIT to the coalition would not mean that DJJS is obligated to start using it. She added that any of Pauline's interested colleagues can attend the upcoming coalition meeting.

Hayley Jarolimek stated that the previous coalition included statewide Juvenile Justice representation; she can pull the names and send to Pauline Salla.

**Motion:** Pauline Salla motioned to bring the NRIT to the Coalition, Eileen Hough seconded motion. No objections, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously.

No further discussion on this item.

**5. For Discussion and Possible Action: Work Session for Objective 2b from External Engagement Subcommittee Charter**

No discussion on this item as it was covered in item 4.

**6. For Discussion and Possible Action: Review of External Engagement Subcommittee Charter**

Esther Rodriguez- Brown suggested removing the roster from the charter so that membership revisions could take place without adhering to a voting requirement. As for the deadlines, removing them would add flexibility; the timeliness would remain, they'll just be removed from the roster so that revisions can take place without the need for voting.

**Motion:** Jessica Halling motioned to remove the timelines and roster from External Engagement Charter, Brigid Duffy seconded motion. No objections, no abstentions, motion carried unanimously.

**7. For Discussion and Possible Action: Future Agenda Items**

Esther asked the members to review the matrix in the Google Doc. and email her with which they'd like to see presented at the next meeting.

Eileen Hough asked that the inclusive language discussion be added to the August agenda, she will make the reminder at the July meeting and the documents will be sent to the members before then.

Melissa Holland summarized the future agenda items:

- Assessment Tool presentations
- Objective 2c workgroup- identifying resources for Nevada211 Website

No further discussion on this item.

**8. For Possible Action: Confirm Next Meeting: July 8, 2021, 10:00am-11:30am (or until adjourned)**

Melissa Holland stated the next meeting will be on July 8, 2021 from 10:00am-11:30am.

**9. For Information Only: Final Public Comment**

None

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:37am.

